

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application, of which claims 1 and 16 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. No new claims have been added.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Swartz et al.(US 6,871,786).

The present invention is a bar code reader which has a first circuit board on which a photodiode is placed. The photodiode receives light reflected from a bar code. The bar code reader also has a second circuit board on which a processing unit is placed. The processing unit processes the signal output from the photodiode. The position at which the first circuit board is placed can be decided irrespective of the position at which the second circuit board is placed. The first circuit board is placed at a position that is most suitable for receiving light reflected from the bar code.

Swartz et al. describes a bar code scanner having a photodetector and a processor.

Swartz et al. fails to describe a first circuit board which is separate and distinct from the second circuit board. Further, Swartz et al. fails to indicate that the first circuit board is positioned in a location in the bar code reader which is most suitable for receiving light reflected from the bar code.

Therefore, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting,

“A bar-code reader comprising: a first arrangement to mount a converting element that receives a light reflected from a bar code and converts the light received to an electric signal; and a second arrangement to mount a processing unit that reproduces the bar code from the electric signal, wherein the first arrangement is a first circuit board and the second arrangement is a second circuit in which the first circuit board is separate and distinct from the second circuit board and the first circuit board is positioned in the bar code reader so as to optimize the reception of light reflected from the bar code.” (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Swartz et al.(US 6,871,786) is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 4-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz et al. (US 6,871,786) in view of Komizo (US 5,663,552).

Komizo describes a portable information terminal having an image processing function.

Swartz et al. and Komizo fail to describe a first circuit board which is separate and distinct from the second circuit board. Further, Swartz et al. and Komizo fail to indicate that the first circuit board is positioned in a location in the bar code reader which is most suitable for receiving light reflected from the bar code.

Therefore, claim 16 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting,

“A method of reading a bar code using a bar code reader that includes a photodiode which receives light reflected from a bar code, a first processor that reproduces a pattern of the bar code from a electric signal, the first processor having a first memory unit; a second processor that reproduces the bar code based on the pattern, the second processor having a second memory unit; and a storage unit that stores a first computer program and a second computer program, comprising: the first

processor reading the first computer program from the storage unit, storing the first computer program into the first memory unit, and executing the first computer program to reproduce the pattern; and the first processor reading the second computer program from the storage unit and storing the second computer program into the second memory unit of the second processor, and the second processor executing the second computer program to reproduce the bar code, wherein the photodiode is located on a first circuit board and the first processor, the second processor and storage unit are located on a second circuit in which the first circuit board is separate and distinct from the second circuit board and the first circuit board is positioned in the bar code reader so as to optimize the reception of light reflected from the bar code." (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 4-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz et al. (US 6,871,786) in view of Komizo (US 5,663,552) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

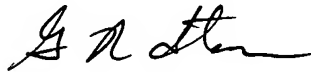
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-18, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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